

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 14, 1971

SECRET

DDI-2174-71

MEMORANDUM FOR: RICHARD HELMS, DIRECTOR  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

FROM: JOHN D. EHRLICHMAN

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF INTELLIGENCE LEAKS  
IN THE PRESS

ck: I have in hand your memorandum of August 26, 1971, responding to our request that a study be made on intelligence leaks in the press during previous Administrations.

It was not our intention to have you undertake a project of the magnitude which you describe, and perhaps we can make the job manageable if we tailor our request to what you already have on file. What we would like, therefore, is a brief analysis on intelligence leaks (with copies of the relevant memoranda) based on your files compiled during the last three Administrations. In your June 4, 1971 memorandum on public disclosure of classified information you cite the statutory obligation of the Director of the CIA in connection with the protection of intelligence sources and methods. Accordingly, copies of earlier memoranda compiling such information would be typical of the kind we would like to review.

Our objective is to gain some perspective on the extent of leaks during the Eisenhower, Johnson and Kennedy Administrations, how serious they were, and how they were dealt with. For example, it would be helpful to know how many investigations were directed by Eisenhower, Johnson and Kennedy, how often investigations were undertaken on the Agency's own initiative, what corrective actions, if any, were taken as a result of such investigations and what particular newsmen were most often involved. Of particular interest would be the answers to these questions during the years 1961, 1962 and 1963, since it was in October of 1962 that Secretary McNamara put into effect the requirement that all press interviews be reported.

In view of the President's continuing interest in this whole matter, we would very much appreciate the above described analysis and materials by September 30, 1971.

Thanks, John

PROPOSED OUTLINE FOR RESPONSE TO WHITE HOUSE REQUEST

- I. Introduction (reference to earlier study and present request)
- II. Methodology
  - A. USIB Security Committee (and predecessors, if necessary to get back to 1961-1963)
  - B. Functions and operating methods
  - C. ~~Nature~~ Nature of the files (data base)
- III. Findings
  - A. Number of matters (press leaks) called to SC attention (and newsmen involved in leaks)
  - B. Originator (initiator) of SC attention
  - C. Number of investigations, including initiators
  - D. Corrective or follow-up actions taken
  - E. The 1961-63 Period in Particular
- IV. Implications of the Findings

This outline is a suggestion only, but is responsive to the particular questions posed by the White House. The first two sections should be brief, and designed merely to tell the reader the context for the data presented. The third section (III) is the guts of the paper. I think the focus should be on the statistical findings, in table form if possible. The corrective actions (III.D) and 1961-63 period subsections will of necessity be narrative in form. Section IV is intended as a summary of the historical pattern, not an analysis of the problem or recommendations for change. Depending on the length of the paper, we may want to put a summary up front between I and II.

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At Annex would be selected materials from your files which summarize periods or trends.